

Health Advisory: Isolated SARS case in China

January 6, 2004

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/>.

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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January 6, 2004

**FROM: RICHARD C. DUNN
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: Laboratory confirmation of a SARS case in southern China:
Isolated Case Poses No Immediate Public-Health Threat**

The following statement was released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on January 5, 2004:

On January 5, 2004, the Chinese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that laboratory tests have confirmed evidence of recent infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome—associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) in a 32-year-old man in Guangdong Province, China. The patient, who had onset of an illness consistent with SARS on December 16, 2003, is currently afebrile and in good condition. All the 81 identified contacts of the patient are reported to be well.

Press releases from WHO Geneva and the Western Pacific Regional Office describing the case are available at http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_05/en/ and http://www.wpro.who.int/public/press_release/press_view.asp?id=322. The WHO statements emphasize that although this case has been confirmed, there is no immediate public-health threat in southern China and it remains safe to travel in all areas of China.

The source of infection for this case has not been identified. As noted in the WHO press releases, Chinese authorities have taken steps to minimize contact between humans and animals thought to carry SARS-CoV, including culling of civet cats and related species.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is in close communication with WHO regarding this case of SARS. **Because this is an isolated case with no evidence of person-to-person transmission, the U.S. guidelines and recommendations for SARS surveillance, evaluation, and reporting in the absence of SARS-CoV transmission still apply.** [See the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' **Health Advisory** from December 22, 2003, entitled "**Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS): Identification and Evaluation of Possible SARS-CoV Disease Among Persons Presenting With Community-Acquired Illness,**" available at http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/SARS/SARS_web.htm] For more information, see the CDC document, "In the Absence of SARS-CoV Transmission Worldwide: Guidance for Surveillance, Clinical and Laboratory Evaluation, and Reporting" at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/absenceofsars.htm>. The document is part of CDC's draft *Public Health Guidance for Community-Level Preparedness and Response to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)* (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/sarsprepplan.htm>).

For additional information on SARS, go to the department's SARS web site at http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/SARS/SARS_web.htm.

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